

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter **REPORT**

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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Amateurs MUST Supply their Social Security Number to the FCC!

Sometime around mid-August, applicants for new and upgraded Amateur Radio operator/station licenses will be asked to provide their Social Security Number (SSN) to the FCC. The FCC Form 610 is being changed to a new Form 605 which asks for new information.

Actually you could be faced with three different new forms – unless the VEC chooses to incorporate the needed information on one form. (The W5YI-VEC is consolidating the needed information on a single sheet for its VE teams.)

The possible three different forms needed by Amateur Radio Operator applicants and VE teams are the

- (1.) **Form 605** ("Quick Form Application in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and the General Mobile Radio Services"),
- (2.) the "**Schedule D**" (Additional Data in the Amateur Radio Service) and
- (3.) a **VE Worksheet** (needed by the VEC System to indicate examinations passed, VE certifications, exam site and date, etc.)

Why does the FCC Need your SSN?

The FCC is required by the *Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996* to collect Social Security Numbers (SSNs) or Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) when they issue a license. Amateur

licenses are issued to individuals so it is the Social Security Number (rather than the TIN) that the applicant must furnish to the FCC.

This can be done in either of two ways.

- (1) You can give the VE team or VEC your SSN – or, if you prefer not to,
- (2) You can register your SSN with the FCC using a procedure that we outlined in our May 15th *W5YI Report*.

This is not open to further discussion among the Amateur community ...or the FCC for that matter. Congress required the SSN/TIN collection procedure on all Federal agencies in April 1996. The FCC is just following through on what is now *Public Law 104-134*.

The bottom line is that you will either have to furnish the VE team (or VEC) your SSN – or a corresponding "Licensee ID" number that is generated when you register your SSN with the FCC – or you will be unable to obtain a new or upgraded license – nor will you be able to renew an existing license.

The primary purpose of the *Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996* is to maximize collections of delinquent debts owed to the Government at minimum cost. This measure marks the beginning of federal efforts to collect delinquent debts which now total over \$100 billion. A key part of the law is

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access to Taxpayer Identifying Numbers which are needed to facilitate the collection of delinquent debts. All federal agencies are required to collect and send the SSN/TIN information to the Dept. of the Treasury where it will be used to identify entities that owe the Government money.

Public Law 104-134 also permits federal agencies to contract with private collection firms to locate and recover assets and pay for such services out of the proceeds that are recovered - or to pay "finders fees" to persons who locate and recover assets of the United States the existence of - or location of - which is unknown to the Federal Government. All outstanding payments paid to the treasury must include the SSN or TIN. Here is the relevant part of the Act : *(Emphasis added.)*

From: PUBLIC LAW 104-134

(I)(1) IN GENERAL. Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-sections

- (c)(1) The head of each Federal agency shall require each person doing business with that agency to furnish to that agency such person's taxpayer identifying number.
- (1) For purposes of this subsection, a person shall be considered to be doing business with a Federal agency if the person is:
 - (A) a lender or servicer in a Federal guaranteed or insured loan program administered by the agency;
 - (B) an applicant for, or recipient of, a Federal license, permit, right-of-way, grant, or benefit payment administered by the agency or insurance administered by the agency;
 - (C) a contractor of the agency;
 - (D) assessed a fine, fee, royalty or penalty by the agency; and
 - (E) in a relationship with the agency that may give rise to a receivable due to that agency, such as a partner of a borrower in or a guarantor of a Federal direct or insured loan administered by the agency.
- (3) Each agency shall disclose to a person required to furnish a taxpayer identifying number under this subsection its intent to use such number for purposes of collecting and reporting on any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the Government.

In August, the FCC will be implementing their new

Universal Licensing System (ULS) and one of the required items that VECs must electronically transmit to the FCC is the Social Security Number or the "Licensee ID."

This information must be contained in "Field position 4" of the "Amateur Applicant Information" record or the application will be automatically rejected (dismissed) by the FCC computer.

Again, here is the registration procedure that applicants for Amateur Radio Operator/Station licenses must follow if they do not wish to give their SSN to the VE/VEC ...or to the FCC on an application form.

- (1) Once the existing Amateur Service database is converted to the Universal Licensing System (ULS), it will be necessary that all applications submitted contain either the applicant's social security number or its corresponding "Licensee ID." You obtain the "Licensee ID" by registering your SSN with the FCC.
- (2) Registration is the process of identifying yourself (and your call signs if you have one or more) to the ULS. By placing this information in the ULS, it can automatically be retrieved each time you file an application with the Commission. You do not need to hold an FCC license in order to register with the ULS. **First time applicants for an Amateur Radio license must also register prior to filing an application if they do not wish to furnish their SSN to the VE/VEC System.** Once registered, your Social Security Number will not be disclosed.
- (3) Registration permits Amateurs to file applications electronically (i.e. requests for Vanity call signs, renewal applications) and to perform "administrative updates" - such as address, phone number, e-mail address, name changes, etc.
- (4) You will receive a nine-character Licensee Identification Number when you register. This number will begin with the letter 'L' and be followed by eight digits. If you are registered in ULS, you will not need to provide your Social Security Number to the VE/VEC. Instead, you furnish your Licensee Identification Number.
- (5) When registering, you provide your Social Security Number, as well as your name, mailing address, phone number, and any call sign for which you are licensed, regardless of radio service (for example, if you have an Amateur Service license and a license in one of the Private Land Mobile Radio Services, you need to provide the call sign for both licenses.)
- (6) In the current Amateur Service database, your station call sign is used as the "key" - or "unique identifier." ULS uses your Social Security Number (and

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not your station call sign) as the record identifier.

(7.) An applicant can register for the ULS either:

- electronically over the Internet by pointing your web browser to <<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>> and clicking on the "TIN/Call Sign Registration button." or
- you can file a paper FCC Form 606 document.

This form may be obtained by either downloading it from the web at <<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>> or from the FCC's Forms Distribution Center at telephone number: 1-800-418-FORM (3676).

The completed form should either be faxed to (717-338-2693) or mailed back to: Federal Communications Commission, Information Technology Division, Attention: Kathy McLucas, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

FCC QUESTIONS K1MAN'S RADIO OPERATIONS

Glenn Baxter, K1MAN is the controversial manager of IARN, the International Amateur Radio Network and the Executive Director of AARA, the American Amateur Radio Association. His daily IARN Amateur Information Bulletin Service began on 80 and 20 meters in 1987 and became a "talk show" in 1995. Baxter's 90 minute "bulletins" are aired several times a day.

On June 25th, FCC's Riley Hollingsworth sent a letter to Glenn Baxter, operator of K1MAN requesting information regarding the operation of his station. He said:

"On May 14, 1999, personnel from the Boston Office of the FCC monitored your station on 3.975 MHZ at approximately 9:30 a.m. and attempted to inspect your station at the tip of Long Point at Belgrade Lakes (Maine.) There was no one present at your station and there were no vehicles on the premises. The radio transmissions continued while the FCC personnel went to your residence at Point Road, but there was no one present there either.

"On May 15 while your station was on the air, FCC personnel again attempted to inspect your station but there was no one present and there were no vehicles.

"We note from your web page and from our own monitoring, that your Amateur Radio station K1MAN makes daily radio transmissions apparently totaling 110 hours per week. We note also that often the starting times are erratic and there is no station identification transmitted at the end of the transmissions.

The Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules require that Amateur stations be under the physical control of a control operator, and that the control operator must ensure the immediate proper operation of the station. The rules further require that station identifications be made at specific periods.

"You are requested to provide the following information pursuant to Section 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Section 308(b). Under this provision, the Commission is given authority to request information from a licensee or applicant regarding the operation of a radio station.

(1.) (a) List the name, address, and telephone number of the

control operator of K1MAN on May 14 and 15, 1999.

(b) During what times, and on what frequencies, was K1MAN transmitting on May 14 and 15, 1999.

(c) State the whereabouts of the control operator, if any, of K1MAN during the times of operation on May 14 and 15, 1999.

- List the name, address and telephone number of all control operators of K1MAN during the hours of operation listed on the web page and in your daily transmissions.
- Are any portions of K1MAN transmissions automated? If so, give details and provide a copy of the control circuit configuration.
- List the programming schedule for K1MAN for the period January 1, 1998 through June 1, 1999, and provide the dates, times and frequencies.
- For each of the transmissions of K1MAN listed in "4", furnish the name, address and telephone number of the control operator.
- Were automated tape control devices utilized at K1MAN during the period January 1, 1998 to June 1, 1999? If so, state the dates, frequencies and times used.
- List all dates, times and frequencies that K1MAN has transmitted without a control operator being present, since the inception of the license term on October 17, 1995.
- Since the inception of the license term on October 17, 1995, has K1MAN been controlled remotely? If so, state the dates, times, frequencies and provide a details schematic of the control circuit configuration.

You are requested to furnish this information in writing within 30 days from the date of this letter. You are advised that Congress has made a willful misrepresentation in response to a letter of this type punishable by fine or imprisonment. The information submitted by you will be used to determine what, if any, action to take in this matter.

Sincerely,

W. Riley Hollingsworth
Attorney, Enforcement
Compliance and Information Bureau

Glenn Baxter responded by issuing a press release saying that the Hollingsworth letter (Quote) "...came THE DAY AFTER the FCC was finally served, on June 24, 1999, with K1MAN's \$10,000,000 libel suit against both the FCC and the United [sic] Department of Justice in Kennebec, Maine Superior Court begun in May."

"The Hollingsworth letter is apparently a ham radio media smoke screen for the serious civil and criminal legal problems now facing the commission which is likely to be followed by a congressional probe into long standing corruption at the Commission."

"The FCC must respond to the \$10,000,000 lawsuit by July 15th, and we have a big surprise for Mr. Hollingsworth on July 25th, which is the due date for responding to his smoke screen June 25th letter."

Baxter added that "I am extremely happy that the FCC and I will soon be in front of a jury in Court to demonstrate what it really means to live in the United States of America as we today celebrate the fourth of July here at the American Amateur Radio Association." (End Quote)

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CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

■ **Large electric motors are getting smarter.** The next generation of electricity-to-motion hardware uses internal sensors and computers to inform operators of interior motor temperature (windings and bearings), vibration, voltage level and phase, and speed. What's even more advanced is the on-board computer hardware that can examine collected data and alert the user to potential motor failure.

■ **Some of the newest digital multimeters include real-time clocks.** Used in conjunction with the internal data-logging function, a technician can take a series of readings with time stamps and download it all into a master computer -- all without having to write anything down.

■ **SoundDogs claims to be the first on-line sound effects and production music library.** Started in 1997, it offers a huge collection of music and sounds that can be purchased for mixing into commercials or video presentations. You can listen to samples, then pick and choose which ones you want. SoundDogs will build a custom music/effects CD for you and have it delivered to your door.

■ **One industry estimate places the cost of testing an average integrated circuit during manufacture to be as much as 30% of the cost of the chip.**

■ **Food for thought Dept.** The next time your batteries die off during an inopportune moment or you get lost in a telephone voice mail menu, thank your lucky stars. Almost one-third of the world's population has never used a radio, a television, a telephone ...or even a transistor.

■ **Remember those twist-on connectors we used to splice stranded wires together without soldering?** King Safety Products makes a new version that contains silicone sealant. It instantly covers and protects the bare wires as you twist on the connector.

■ **GPS almanac software can keep track of each navigation satellite, and predict a full day in advance with reasonable certainty when and where each one will appear overhead.** This helps make it easier to GPS receiving equipment to look for and acquire the satellite signals.

■ **Industrial lighting systems often gradually change color over time.** As metal-halide lamps age, their internal chemicals become depleted and their out-

put power decreases. This also changes the color of the light they emit. You can sometimes see where lamps have been replaced because their light color doesn't match most of the others in an installation.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

■ **One fault with the standard TV ratings system is it relies on human beings to remember what they watched and write it down later.** With channel-surfing so rampant these days, however, those writings are practically never reliable. With so much advertising money at stake, the TV networks want something more reliable. One system being looked at bypasses the viewer altogether. A small, electrostatic sensor on the back of the TV set picks up codes that are embedded within the video signal and relays that information back to a recorder, which tells the rating system exactly what is being watched at each and every moment.

■ **So you want to put your own GPS receiver in your car?** The best place for the antenna is on the roof, but that may not be practical. The optimum compromise is mounting the antenna on the dashboard, as close to the windshield as possible (or on the back shelf, near the base of the rear window -- whichever has the lower slope). The idea is to give the antenna as clear a view to the sky as possible.

■ **Europe is working on its own version of GPS.** Code-named "Galileo," Europe's next-generation satellite navigation system is meant to augment both the United States' GPS as well as the Russian GLONASS networks. Galileo, named after the Italian astronomer and scientist who discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter (among other things), will employ several high-powered transmitters on the new satellites to make the navigation system less prone to jamming both by enemies and solar interference. This means that future satellite receivers could be smaller and less expensive, while still being compatible with GPS.

■ **New life for an old satellite.** As NOAA launches newer and more powerful weather satellites, it often farms out the use of their older (but still working) "birds" to other organizations. NOAA has moved GOES-7 westward to a spot over the Pacific Ocean to let PEACESAT, the PanPacific Education and Communications Experiment by Satellite, incorporate it into education and government networks for several Pacific islands. GOES-7 is over 12

years old and its new role will replace GOES-2 and GOES-3, which are both over 20 years old. (GOES = Geostationary Observational Environmental Satellite)

■ **Lockheed and Goodyear are working together to produce a new tire for the aerospace industry.** Sensors and a transponder planted within the tire monitor and transmit air pressure and temperature to an outside data logger, such as the plane's master computer. This alerts pilots to potential landing problems in advance.

■ **NASA will launch the Ice, Cloud and Elevation Satellite in 2001.** On board will be a new type of altimeter system, based on laser light. Older radar-based altimeters work only so well because the many rough spots on land areas often confuse the receiver, creating an overall average that may not represent the true nature of the land surface. The ICES "bird" will shine a laser from orbit onto ice floes below at the north and south poles.

COMPUTER INFO

■ **"Isn't it time you bought this?"** Millions of computer users download free software from vendors on the Internet. Often these "try-out" programs are designed to de-activate themselves within a certain amount of time, which should give the user ample time to determine whether he would like (and therefore purchase) the full commercial version.

Some software companies don't let their offerings expire, but simply let a so-called "nag message" pop up on the screen occasionally to remind the user that the software was created and exchanged in good faith, and gently reminds him to purchase the retail version soon. Some "nag messages" are even audible!

■ **With computer graphics technology getting more powerful all the time, some companies are creating their own digital actors and actresses to appear in commercials.** In many cases it's cheaper than a human superstar; no retakes are necessary; and it creates a unique impression in the minds of consumers. Besides, digital images don't have to worry about how selling a particular product may affect their careers, and companies don't have to throw away a campaign due to an actor's improprieties.

■ **Computerists who purchase CD-ROM "burners" in the hopes of pirating commercial software may have their plans squashed.** Macrovision, the

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company that created the technology which prevents most movies on videotape from being duplicated, has come up with a similar technique for CD-ROMs. SafeDisc prevents CD-Recordable drives from making copies of specially encoded discs. It does not affect game play or keep a genuine disc from loading properly.

■ **Video game designers are working on an unusual problem incorporating the illusions of acceleration and other properties of motion into game play.** Computer hardware now cannot make images much more realistic than they already are, so programmers must incorporate more believability into games and simulators by making the action "feel" right as well as "look" right. Some software is already available to game designers that automatically takes care of the math required to simulate gravity, friction, and even surface tension.

■ **A TV image, as you probably know, is made up of thousands of pixels -- individual points of light.** Computer graphics are often handled in similar fashion; they are thought of as thousands of individual shapes, often referred to as polygons. Anything drawn on a computer screen can be described by hardware and software as a collection of polygons. This makes processing easier and faster. A computer graphics engine today can handle from 2,000 to 6,000 polygons on the screen at one time (most of which are used to describe video game characters). Companies are working on more powerful systems that can process over 50,000 polygons simultaneously.

■ **Inertia causes an object in motion to stay in motion, until acted upon by an outside force.** In many cases, this outside force is money. Companies like to use an old computer mainframe, even though more powerful desktop PCs are available. Doing so, however, costs money. Only when it costs more to keep the mainframe operating (repair and electricity) than to get a new system will management approve the changeover.

■ **All thoroughbred racehorses in America are registered in a computer database.** Some lineages go back to the 18th century, and over 35,000 new horses are added each year. Each horse's record is updated automatically after each race.

■ **According to one estimate, there are at least 10,000 to 40,000 different computer viruses in existence.** Most, fortunately, are benign.

■ **Ground crews are learning to repair aircraft with virtual reality.** After a software company photographs enough images of an aircraft (inside and out), it programs a CD-ROM with enough detailed graphics to show the airframe, avionics, and other systems to let a technician study them. Pointing and clicking with a mouse lets a tech attach test equipment and get familiar with all areas of the plane, and the instructor can "look over his shoulder" on another computer screen in the classroom network. This saves enormous amounts of time and speeds up learning because an entire class of techs can work on one "plane" simultaneously.

INTERNET NEWS

■ **The music industry is always fearful of recording technology that could eat into their profits,** and the distribution of new songs over the Internet worries many musicians. A song in digital form can be copied and transferred hundreds if not thousands of times, with the artist not receiving any royalties. Digital watermarking technology is in the works - data which is embedded within the music file, and is not audible, can at least be recovered on demand and allow law enforcement to find out the original source of that file.

■ **CMGI, Inc. of Andover, MA has purchased an 83 percent stake in Compaq Computer Corp.'s AltaVista Web site.** The \$2.3 billion deal gives CMGI a new Internet portal to draw visitors to its lesser known online properties such as Ancestry.com, CarParts.com, Furniture.com and Raging Bull ...a financial investment forum.

Compaq Computer will retain the balance of AltaVista which will be spun off into a separate company via an *Initial Public Offering*. Compaq, based in Houston, acquired AltaVista as part of its \$9 billion purchase of computer maker Digital Equipment Corp. last year.

AltaVista has just remodeled its site to include a new shopping portal, added 40 local portals and enhanced its search site. The firm said their future plans include cataloging the entire World Wide Web, about 1 billion pages of content - within a year.

■ **Some users of "@Home", the cable-TV based Internet service are fuming that the ISP will cap user's upstream data rates at 128-kbs.** The official line is that the lower speed is needed to "solve performance problems." The real reason is to prevent users from running

a Web server from an @Home account. There will be no limit set on subscribers' download speeds, however, which reaches up to 3 Mbps. We heard that @Home will unveil a higher cost service called "@Home Professional" that will allow users to run Web servers and two-way high bandwidth applications such as video-conferencing.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

■ **The FCC has begun a new filing system for Antenna Structure Registration (ASR).** The transition to the new system will affect both electronic and manual (paper) ASR filings, and will include the release of a revised FCC Form 854 (*Application for Antenna Structure Registration*). The old form may be used during a six month transition period. These changes do not affect the requirements for registering antenna structures with the FCC (contained in Part 17 of the Commission's Rules). ASR applicants will be able to continue to submit either electronic or manual (paper) filings, and there will continue to be no fee associated with the registration of antenna structures.

The new ASR software has been developed in conjunction with FCC's new *Universal Licensing System (ULS)*. Like the ULS, the new ASR system provides numerous benefits, including fast and easy electronic filing, improved data accuracy through automated checking of applications, and enhanced electronic access to registration information.

Free electronic filing and database searches will be available over the Internet, replacing outdated filing software and fee-based searches of the ASR database.

As part of the new system, effective July 1, 1999 all ASR filers must register their *Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)* with the Commission and list their current antenna structure registrations prior to submitting both paper and electronic ASR applications.

Antennas less than 200-ft in height (which includes most Amateur station antennas) do not need to be registered. General information about the ASR process can be found at the Antenna Home-page at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/antenna>.

(FCC Public Notice, June 21, 1999)

■ **Quickly, now! Who is the single largest buyer of computers and computer-related equipment in the world?** You would be right if you said the United States government.

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AMATEUR RADIO

■ **Zaire 9Q** has applied for membership in the International Amateur Radio Union. Their address is ARAC, P.O. Box 1459, Kinshasa 1, D. R. Congo

■ Interesting tidbit from Australian Amateur Radio Magazine that we hadn't heard before. - **Thomas Alva Edison suffered from deafness at an early age.** He taught Morse Code to his wife-to-be while still courting her. When at last she was able to both send and receive messages clearly in the Code, Edison proposed to her by tapping out the proposal in her hand. She answered of course in Morse Code. After they were married they regularly conversed with each other in Morse Code. When they attended a play, Mrs Edison is said to have sat with her hand on her husband's knee, telegraphing the actor's words so that Edison could appreciate the play. (*Shadetree Publishing/VK4KNH*)

■ **The crackdown continues on Amateur stockpiling of preferential station club call signs** - FCC's Riley Hollingsworth has sent out another batch of inquiries to amateurs who are believed to be "warehousing" Club Call Signs. It appears the objective is to collect as many station call signs - especially those with a one-by-two format - as possible. An Extra Class amateur can trade in the initially issued two-by-three format call sign for a one-by-two under the Vanity Call Sign System. (K6GA has 16 of them!)

Hollingsworth is asking these amateurs to supply him with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of each of the club members and the meeting dates. He also wants copies of the meeting minutes and the document of origination for each club. Club trustees who can not reasonably supply the requested information are having the club call signs canceled by the FCC.

Paul P. Kluwe, W8ZO (Extra Class) of Manchester, Mich. Is being asked about:

W6UF - Residents Contesting Association
W8GZ - Radio Group
W8OZ - Washtentaw ARTS
W8RP - Ann Arbor Radio Association.

The "Tuckers" - all living at the same address in LaMirada, California - have amassed at least 35 club station call signs. They are:

Kathryn K. Tucker, AA6TK (Extra Cl.)

K6GND - Historical Amateur Radio Club
KK9DOG - Illibuck Amateur Radio Assn.

W6KAY - Erehwon Amateur Radio Club
W6MTR - So. Calif. Six Meter Club Aux.
W6NUT - Mighty Wonderful Rep. Assn. Aux
WW6LM - LaMirada Municipal Association
WW6TXA - Orange County Repeater Project
WX6XX - Southern California ARA

Roy T. Tucker, N6TK (Extra Class)

K6ANT - Antique Amateur Radio Club
K6MTR - S. Calif. Six Meter Club
KK6USA - Patriotic Amateur Radio Club
NN6LM - LaMirada Civic Am. Radio Club
W6CAT - Illibuck Amateur Radio Club
W6FUN - Mighty Wonderful Repeater Assn.
W6RRR - Shangri La Amateur Radio Club
WW6HAM - Southern California ARC
WW6TXB - Los Angeles Repeater Project

Eric G. Tucker, AA6ET (Extra Class)

K6HO - Thunder & Lightning Am. Rad. Club
W6BUB - Los Angeles Amateur Radio Assoc.
W6HI - Victory Amateur Radio Club
W6TNT - Aardvark Amateur Radio Club
WW6CQ - Olive Tree Amateur Radio Club
WW6DX - Arbol Olive Amateur Radio Club
WW6FM - Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club
WW6WWW - So. Calif. Am. Radio Group

Nancy N. Tucker, W5NAN (Tech Plus)

W5NNT - Empire State Am. Radio Society
WW5HAM - Jefferson County A. R. Society

Kent A. Tucker, AA6KT, (Extra Class)

K5HO - Watertown Amateur Radio Society
K6WOW - Golden State Amateur Radio Club
W6AAA - Southern Calif. Am. Radio Club
W6BAH - Golden State Amateur Radio Club
W6BUG - Doodlebug Amateur Radio Club
W6NNN - Los Angeles Am. Radio Organ.
W6XYZ - Los Angeles Am. Radio Group
WW5HI - Adirondack Am. Radio Society

Alan C. Emerald, K6GA (Extra Class)

of Huntington Beach, California has obtained 16 one-by-two club call signs:

K2JA - Ionospheric Research Group
K2OA - North America Pacific UHF Club
K6XA - North America Pacific UHF Club
K8OA - North America Pacific UHF Club
N1KA - Ionospheric Research Group
N1XA - Pacific Rim USA Repeater Assn.
N2XA - Pacific Rim USA Repeater Assn.
N3GA - North America Pacific UHF Club
N3UA - North America Pacific UHF Club
N7NA - Pacific Rim USA Repeater Assn.
N7OA - Pacific Rim USA Repeater Assn.
N8KA - Ionospheric Research Group
N8OA - Pacific Rim USA Repeater Assn.
W0XA - Ionospheric Research Group
W6HX - TGM DX Club
W8GA - Ionospheric Research Group

Richard L. Whiten, WB2OTK of Easley, S.C. has had his operator license modified

to prohibit operation below 30 MHz for a period of 120 days. Hollingsworth said Whiten's transmissions in Nov. 1998 could have subjected him to license revocation and/or monetary forfeiture proceedings before an Administrative Law Judge.

"Such operation endangers the basis

and purpose of Amateur radio as a service, degrades it for other licensed operators and cannot be tolerated." In view of this response and apology, however, his license is being modified to prohibit HF operation until after Sept. 25th.

David A. Hold, KC5JCV of Stafford, Texas has had his license canceled for transmitting unidentified communications from his vehicle to maliciously interfere with repeater operations.

John A. Sormeley, KC2DMP of Flushing, New York was sent an official warning notice that "...information before the Commission indicates that on several occasions in 1999 you, or someone using your call sign, have operated radio transmitting equipment in the 10 Meter Amateur Band. These frequencies are not licensed to you under your Technician license."

Paul E. Holcombe, K4TOF (General Class) and Robert L. Myers, N5WLY (Technician Class) - both of Houston, TX - have been issued *Official Notices of Violation* for jamming the input of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club repeater in southwest Houston on 144.870 MHz/145.470 MHz. They were located by FCC Agents out of the Houston office using direction-finding vehicles while mobile. The Commission had received complaints for over 5 years of intentional interference, jamming and harassment by unidentified operators directed at BVARC users. The jammers used touch-tones, music and disguised voices to interfere with, and made derogatory remarks toward, legal users of the repeater. FCC investigation and monitoring from February to May 1999 of this year resulted in the positive identification of the two individuals.

■ **Late Bulletin.** On July 2nd, the FCC notified VECs that the Commission will be converting the current FCC Amateur Service database to the new ULS format between July 25th and August 2nd, "...therefore the system will be down and we will not accept most applications electronically filed for about a week. VEC's were told that they could begin testing the new ULS format on Tuesday, July 6. The FCC said that VECs should anticipate delays in processing during the first two weeks of implementation.

The FCC is also in the process of establishing a new policy for the filing of applications for Amateur Radio Clubs, Military Recreation stations and RACES stations which will require the designation of "Club Administrators." The Form 610-B should continue to be used until that procedure is in place.

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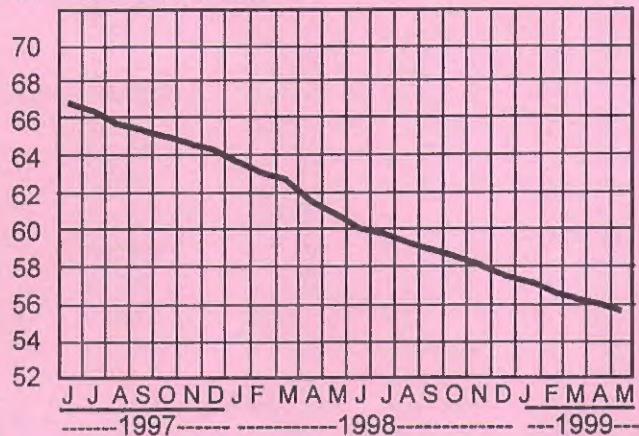
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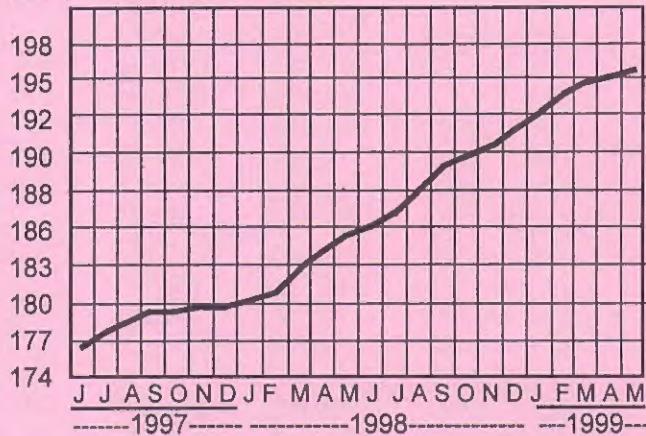
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Trends in Amateur Service Licensing June 30, 1997 to May 31, 1999

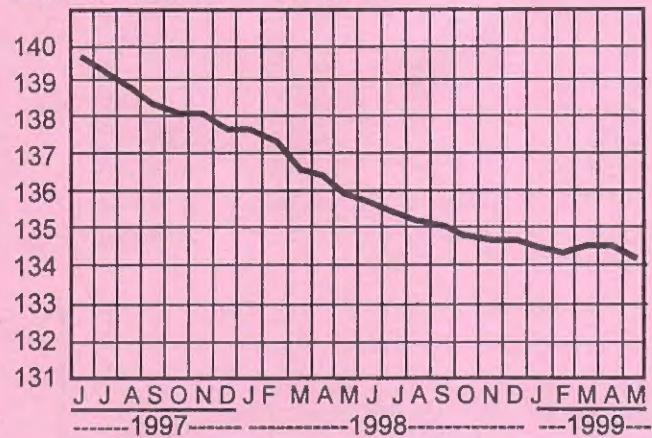
000's Novice Class



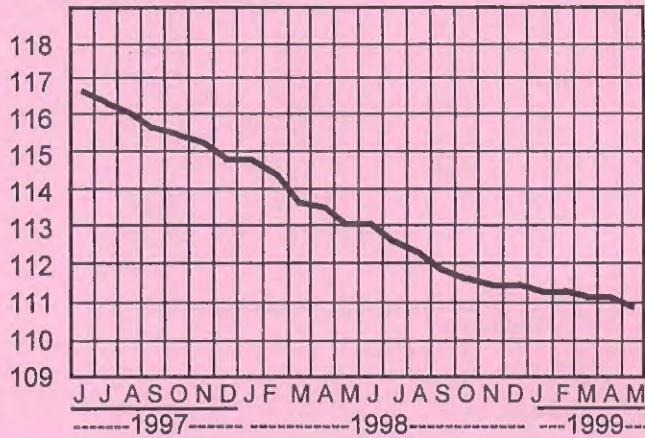
000's Technician Class



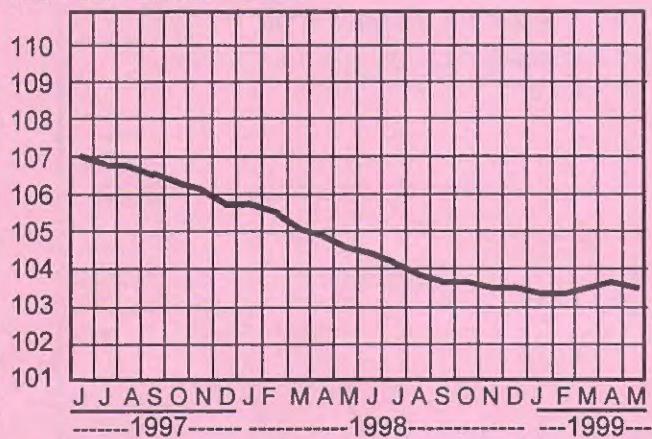
000's Technician Plus Class



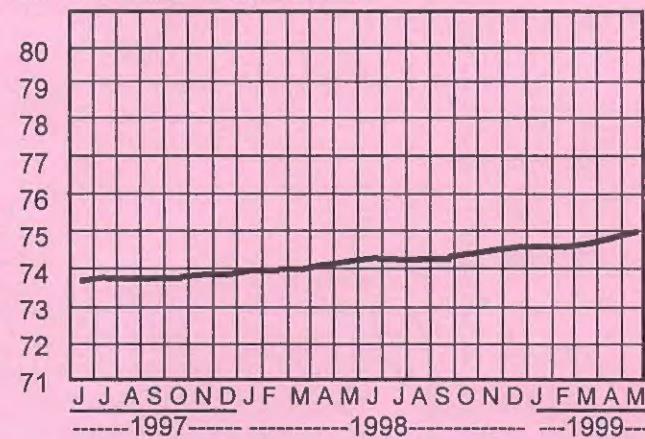
000's General Class



000's Advanced Class



000's Amateur Extra Class



The six charts above indicate the increase or decrease in the number of currently licensed radioamateurs by license class over the past two years. These figures exclude the (approximate 45,000) amateurs whose license has expired, but are still listed in the database due to the two year "grace period." Note that the number of licensed Technician Class amateurs continues to grow while the license classes which require Morse code proficiency are decreasing. The Extra Class does, however, have a slight increase. On the next page is a chart of all currently licensed amateurs.

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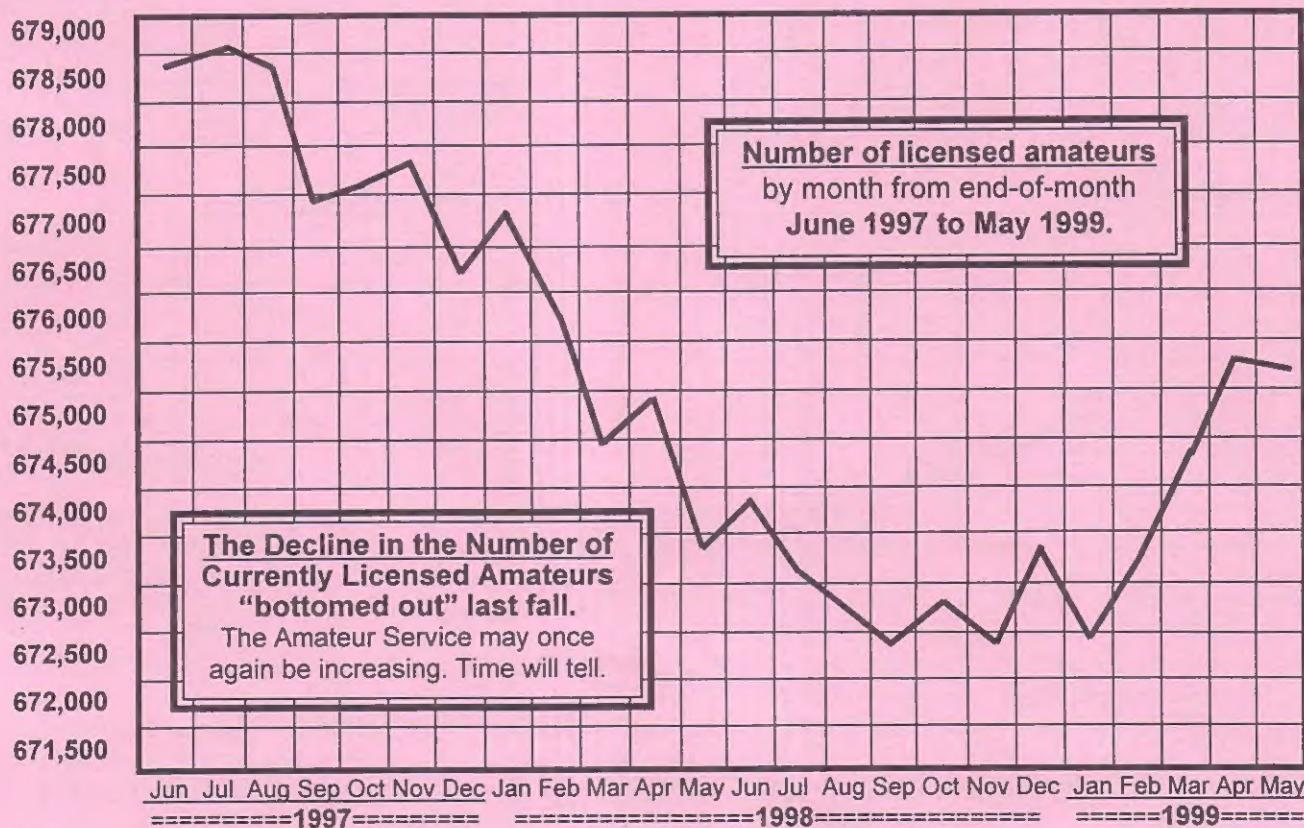
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Amateur Radio Station Statistics by Year and License Class

| Month/Yr | Extra | Advanced | General | Tech+ | Technician | Novice | Total |
|---------------|--------|----------|---------|---------|------------|--------|---------|
| May - 1999 | 75,004 | 103,645 | 110,914 | 134,222 | 196,598 | 54,993 | 675,376 |
| April - 1999 | 74,981 | 103,714 | 111,100 | 134,587 | 195,451 | 55,696 | 675,529 |
| March - 1999 | 74,855 | 103,636 | 111,162 | 134,598 | 194,223 | 56,245 | 674,719 |
| Feb. - 1999 | 74,689 | 103,532 | 111,176 | 134,348 | 192,958 | 56,700 | 673,403 |
| Jan. - 1999 | 74,622 | 103,436 | 111,259 | 134,421 | 192,087 | 57,008 | 672,833 |
| Dec. - 1998 | 74,669 | 103,592 | 111,513 | 134,857 | 191,575 | 57,617 | 673,823 |
| Nov. - 1998 | 74,496 | 103,526 | 111,498 | 134,719 | 190,510 | 58,034 | 672,783 |
| Oct. - 1998 | 74,509 | 103,723 | 111,851 | 134,882 | 189,674 | 58,423 | 673,062 |
| Sept. - 1998 | 74,366 | 103,775 | 111,989 | 135,003 | 188,840 | 58,705 | 672,678 |
| August - 1998 | 74,318 | 103,943 | 112,255 | 135,149 | 188,233 | 59,021 | 672,919 |
| July - 1998 | 74,315 | 104,219 | 112,623 | 135,371 | 187,426 | 59,448 | 673,402 |
| June - 1998 | 74,274 | 104,509 | 112,977 | 135,737 | 186,458 | 60,125 | 674,080 |
| May - 1998 | 74,210 | 104,604 | 113,061 | 135,989 | 185,471 | 60,638 | 673,973 |
| April - 1998 | 74,192 | 104,927 | 113,603 | 136,460 | 184,328 | 61,594 | 675,104 |
| March - 1998 | 74,066 | 104,958 | 113,682 | 136,580 | 183,238 | 62,243 | 674,767 |
| Feb. - 1998 | 74,067 | 105,501 | 114,341 | 137,214 | 181,666 | 63,239 | 676,028 |
| Jan. - 1998 | 74,043 | 105,795 | 114,798 | 137,616 | 180,665 | 63,892 | 676,809 |
| Dec. - 1997 | 73,949 | 105,835 | 114,877 | 137,688 | 179,988 | 64,169 | 676,506 |
| Nov. - 1997 | 73,939 | 106,123 | 115,280 | 138,064 | 179,240 | 64,868 | 677,514 |
| Oct. - 1997 | 73,915 | 106,207 | 115,460 | 138,078 | 178,335 | 65,142 | 677,137 |
| Sept. - 1997 | 73,794 | 106,304 | 115,639 | 138,339 | 177,547 | 65,372 | 676,995 |
| Aug. - 1997 | 73,804 | 106,668 | 116,079 | 138,900 | 176,960 | 65,909 | 678,320 |
| July - 1997 | 73,749 | 106,877 | 116,352 | 139,238 | 176,355 | 66,162 | 678,733 |
| June - 1997 | 73,737 | 107,024 | 116,629 | 139,608 | 174,924 | 66,551 | 678,473 |



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| PERSONS | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Month | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| Jan. | 8330 | 6228 | 5331 | 4110 | 3458 |
| Feb. | 9516 | 7231 | 7154 | 5473 | 4827 |
| March | 11050 | 10196 | 8885 | 6537 | 5683 |
| April | 10895 | 9671 | 9284 | 5998 | 5345 |
| May | 10043 | 7557 | 7910 | 5848 | 5022 |
| June | 8045 | 6748 | 9314 | 5360 | |
| July | 6526 | 5155 | 3172 | 3353 | |
| Aug. | 6533 | 5674 | 4077 | 3891 | |
| Sept. | 6498 | 5181 | 3700 | 3593 | |
| Oct. | 6398 | 5271 | 4077 | 3860 | |
| Nov. | 6986 | 6156 | 4782 | 4527 | |
| Dec. | 6726 | 5323 | 4289 | 3958 | |
| Total: | 97556 | 80391 | 71975 | 56508 | |

| ELEMENTS | | | | | |
|----------|--------|--------|-------|------|------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 14355 | 10353 | 8999 | 6785 | 5815 | |
| 16230 | 12355 | 12087 | 9036 | 7767 | |
| 18726 | 17245 | 14798 | 10829 | 9299 | |
| 17896 | 16618 | 15714 | 10154 | 8756 | |
| 16985 | 12666 | 13297 | 9660 | 8216 | |
| 13563 | 11266 | 15215 | 8834 | | |
| 11086 | 8710 | 5087 | 5534 | | |
| 11085 | 9435 | 6536 | 6602 | | |
| 11096 | 8844 | 6078 | 5782 | | |
| 10930 | 8892 | 6673 | 6527 | | |
| 12007 | 10510 | 7964 | 7760 | | |
| 11370 | 9053 | 7176 | 6633 | | |
| 165345 | 135945 | 119624 | 94136 | | |

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Report

January 1995 through May 1999

The statistics on the left indicate the number of persons examined for Amateur Radio operator licenses and the total examination elements administered since 1995. Note that the only two months with an increase in the number of applicants and exam elements administered was May and June 1997. (Shown in bold.) This is because a new Element 2 (Novice) and Element 3A (Technician) question pool went into effect on July 1, 1997. There are 50% less persons taking ham radio examinations than four years ago.

AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of July 1, 1999:

| Radio District | Group A | Group B | Group C | Group D |
|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|
| | Extra | Advanced | Tech/Gen. | Novice |
| 0 (*) | AB0IW | KI0QM | (***) | KC0GDI |
| 1 (*) | AA1UM | KE1LW | (***) | KB1EGA |
| 2 (*) | AB2GI | KG2QV | (***) | KC2FHV |
| 3 (*) | AA3SO | KF3DI | (***) | KB3EAB |
| 4 (*) | AF4PB | KV4AL | (***) | KG4DWG |
| 5 (*) | AC5SX | KM5VL | (***) | KD5HQF |
| 6 (*) | AD6IW | KR6BV | (***) | KF6WYF |
| 7 (*) | AC7BF | KK7TR | (***) | KD7GAA |
| 8 (*) | AB8EI | KI8IY | (***) | KC8MUD |
| 9 (*) | AA9XE | KG9PZ | (***) | KB9UYL |
| N. Mariana | NH0P | AH0BC | KH0IA | WH0ABM |
| Guam | (**) | AH2DK | KH2UG | WH2AOA |
| Hawaii | WH7B | AH6PU | KH7UO | WH6DFZ |
| Am. Samoa | AH8R | AH8AH | KH8DO | WH8ABI |
| Alaska | AL0P | AL7RM | KL0TO | WL7CVC |
| Virgin Isl. | (**) | KP2CP | NP2KK | WP2AIK |
| Puerto Rico | WP3F | KP3BM | WP3DP | WP4NOQ |

* = All 1-by-2 & 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.

** = All 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.

***= All Group C (N-by-3) call signs have been assigned.

[Source: FCC Amateur Service Database, Washington, DC]

NEW AND UPGRADING AMATEUR STATISTICS

For the Month of June 1997, 1998 & 1999

| License Class | New Amateurs | | | Upgrading Amateurs | | |
|---------------|--------------|------|------|--------------------|------|------|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| Novice | 86 | 58 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Technician | *3142 | 1330 | 1370 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tech Plus | 213 | 171 | 151 | 412 | 297 | 271 |
| General | 28 | 27 | 22 | 359 | 380 | 219 |
| Advanced | 4 | 2 | 2 | 239 | 239 | 240 |
| Extra Class | 2 | 3 | 1 | 215 | 146 | 142 |
| Club/Empty | 135 | 68 | 54 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 3610 | 1659 | 1664 | 1225 | 1062 | 872 |
| Decrease: | 96% (54%) | +3% | +10% | (13%) (18%) | | |

* = Increase due to approaching Question Pool Change on July 1, 1997

Congressional Committee to Consider Cybertaxes

"We must not allow the Internet to become a tax haven that drains the revenue governments need to provide the services that citizens demand." Joseph Guttenberg, U.S. Treasury Dept.

"There's a real danger (politicians) will pick on electronic commerce. Some politicians say, 'Oh, this is new. Let's tax it.'" Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform

A panel made up of industry and government leaders met on June 21 and 22 to begin laying the foundation for international, federal, and state and local taxation of e-commerce. The committee's number one priority is to address the survival of the sales tax.

State and local governments want a national procedure applying to the collection of taxes on online sales transactions. The Supreme Court has ruled that one state cannot force another state to collect and remit sales taxes unless Congress changes the law. Current laws on Internet sales taxes are just like those faced by direct mail catalogs. If a merchant has no store in your community, you don't have to pay sales taxes on your purchases.

Today, less than one percent of all U.S. consumer spending is completed online. But E-commerce transactions are increasing at 300 percent a year. A U.S. Commerce Department report said that 1998 online sales were \$15 billion a year in 1998. Deloitte Consulting, a widely respected research firm, forecast that e-commerce revenue would climb to \$1.1 trillion by the year 2002 as more people abandon in-person shopping and place orders online. It has been estimated that Internet spending would drop by thirty-percent if sales taxes were charged.

Forty-five states now collect sales taxes which account for one-third of all state tax revenue. It is not surprising that cities and states want their piece of the E-commerce pie.

Toward that end, last year Congress - as part of the Internet Tax Freedom Act - created a Commission to advise them on the development of U.S. policy on taxing sales made over the Internet. Congress also adopted a three year moratorium on new federal, state and local taxes on Internet sales. However, the Act does allow state and local governments to continue to collect taxes on Internet access that were imposed and enforced prior to October 1, 1998.

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This powerful panel, called the *Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce* – or ACEC – originally was to have sixteen members, eight from the Internet industry and eight from local and state governments. The Commission must recommend a future Internet tax policy by April 2000.

Somehow, however, when the members were selected last December, Congress inadvertently named nine members from business and seven from government. Since the balance was tipped in favor of the private sector, the *U.S. Conference of Mayors* and the *National Association of Counties* quickly filed suit to block the Commission meetings.

As a result, Congress bumped Jim Barksdale (Netscape founder) from the panel and appointed a County Commissioner from Oregon (which has no sales tax) in his place. There are now eight members representing industry and eight from the public sector – a total of sixteen. In addition, three members are U.S. Government appointees. Thus the scales are now heavily tipped in favor of public officials.

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

created by Congress to recommend in April 2000 whether and how Internet commerce should be taxed:

REPRESENTING PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS (8)

C. Michael Armstrong, AT&T CEO

Theodore Waitt, Gateway CEO

Robert Pittman, President America Online

John W. Sidgmore, MCI Worldcom/UUNet CEO

David S. Pottruck, Charles Schwab & Co., President

Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform

Richard D. Parsons, Time-Warner, President

Stan Sokul, Association for Interactive Media

REPRESENTING THE STATES (6)

James S. Gilmore III, Virginia Governor, Republican

Michael O. Leavitt, Utah Governor, Republican

Gary Locke, Washington Governor, Democrat

Dean F. Andal, Chairman California Board of Equalization

Gene N. LeBrun, President, National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Law.

Paul C. Harris, Virginia State Delegate, Republican

REPRESENTING COUNTY AND CITY GOVERNMENTS (2)

Ron Kirk, Dallas (Texas) Mayor, Democrat

Delna Jones, County Commissioner, Washington County, OR

U.S. GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES (3)

Andrew Pincus, Commerce Dept., General Counsel

Joseph Guttentag, U.S. Treasury Department

Robert Novick, Counselor, U.S. Trade Representative

The first meeting of the Commission took place on June 21 at the *College of William and Mary* in Williamsburg, VA. Virginia Governor James Gilmore was unanimously named the commission chairman. A beginning

controversy was finding the money to fund the Commission's work. A \$1.9 million budget and the hiring of an Executive Director (Heather Rosenker, a Virginia public relations professional) was approved but Congress did not appropriate the funds.

Pro-business members MCI WorldCom and AT&T said they could bankroll Commission expenses, but feared that questions of "power and influence" would be raised and they would face opposition from (pro-tax) local, county and state governments.

The business community is deeply divided between conventional "brick and mortar" storefront owners who feel they are at a competitive disadvantage to Web retailers who don't charge sales tax – and Internet merchants who want to be able to offer low prices.

Most Commission members believe that the Internet cannot remain a tax-free zone forever. Business representatives said they would adamantly oppose any tax that singled out the Internet rather than products sold ...such as a tax on World Wide Web access. Public officials agreed that e-commerce taxes must not hinder the Internet's explosive growth or allow the government to pry into private transactions.

Both factions agreed that Internet taxes should be no different than those on other forms of commerce and that any system adopted be as simple as possible.

A big problem is that it is estimated that there are over 30,000 taxing authorities in the United States – and each wants their share of Web sales. A system that will be given consideration is having one uniform sales tax rate – rather than different systems in each city, county and state. If it is adopted, cities and counties are likely to lose control over their own tax revenues. Furthermore, agreement must be made on what items are taxable. For example, some states tax food and services now ...others do not. Another consideration is how will the taxes be collected and who decides on how it is split up.

The National Governors Association wants a "21st Century National Sales Tax" that would apply to Internet sales. A coalition of seven state and local government groups – including the National Governors Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors are working on a uniform state law Internet package of their own. It should be ready by December.

Future ACEC meetings are scheduled for New York City (September 14-15), Silicon Valley (December 14-15), and in Austin, Texas, (March 20-21.) It is at these three remaining meetings that federal Net Tax policy will be shaped. Shortly thereafter, a Commission report must be made to the Congress.

The goal is to have new laws in place before a federal moratorium on new taxes for e-commerce expires on October 21, 2001. It is beginning to look like you can expect "billions" in new taxes.